

is in a death spiral. Now we are on a rescue mission. The President and our replacement bill repeals the ObamaCare mandates and taxes, but preserves three important protections:

One, we don't allow denying coverage or charging patients more with pre-existing conditions.

Two, we don't allow insurers to charge women more for being women.

Three, we allow children to stay on their parents' plan until age 26.

Going forward, we bend the cost curve downward by decentralizing health care, promoting competition, and expanding HSAs. We make health care more affordable by providing tax credits, creating value pools, and more judiciously redirecting Medicaid dollars back to those who need it most: children, elderly, and those with disabilities.

BOB LEVINSON'S FAMILY DESERVES ANSWERS

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today, March 9, marks 10 years since my constituent Bob Levinson disappeared in Iran. I had hoped that I would not have to come to the floor today to mark this day or to introduce another resolution on Bob. I had hoped that Bob would be home in south Florida with his wife, his seven children—one of whom is with us today—and his six grandchildren. Bob should be home in time to see his two new grandchildren born later this year.

Ten years is too long. This family deserves answers. Iran must stop playing games, promising to assist finding Bob, agreeing last year to open a new dedicated channel for Bob's case, only time and time again refusing to follow through. Iran must provide meaningful information that will bring Bob home. This new administration must press Iran at every opportunity. I stand ready to work with them and with anyone who is committed to bringing Bob back home to his family where he belongs.

DRIVING DOWN HEALTHCARE COSTS

(Mr. FERGUSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Health Care Act. For 25 years, I practiced dentistry in Georgia's Third District, and I saw firsthand a healthcare system in need of reform to reduce costs and increase access to care.

After ObamaCare was signed into law, these problems only got worse. I saw my patients, friends, and neighbors forced away from their doctors that they trusted. Instead of decreasing costs, patients saw their premiums

skyrocket, their deductibles skyrocket, and their access to care limited. As a healthcare provider, I want to do what is best for my patients. I committed to them that I would come to Congress to repeal ObamaCare and undo the damage that it has done to our healthcare system.

The legislation we are currently considering in the House, the American Health Care Act, is just the first step toward keeping that promise. By passing this legislation, we begin to move the ball down the field and gain yardage rather than continuing to lose ground. This is not our only play. It is the first step in beginning to drive down costs and increasing access to care for patients.

This legislation will keep our promise to repeal ObamaCare and eliminate the government mandates that force people to purchase a product that they don't want. It will allow patients the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions and drive down their costs.

REPEALING THE ACA HURTS MY DISTRICT

(Mr. EVANS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you what repealing the Affordable Care Act means to Pennsylvania's Second Congressional District:

369,000 people who receive health care from their employers could lose consumer protections;

335,000 people with health coverage that covers preventive care services could lose their coverage;

62,000 people covered by Medicaid expansion could lose their coverage;

21,000 people who receive financial assistance will be at greater risk of not being able to afford coverage.

These are our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and friends and neighbors. Philadelphia deserves a healthcare law that offers quality, affordable care. We must continue to speak up and speak out against the new healthcare law that hurts so many people in our city, our State, and our Nation.

HONORING SARA WOODS

(Mr. BACON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I recognize a dedicated public servant from Nebraska. Sara Woods' contributions to our community as an educator, volunteer, and leader serve as a model for current and future generations across our Nation.

Mrs. Woods has lived a life of service and inspiration impacting the community with her dedication. Throughout her educational career, she has encouraged her students to be engaged learn-

ers. Sara was crucial in the creation of many service organizations whose purpose is to equip, train, and encourage young leaders to serve their communities. She currently serves on the boards of several nonprofits in Omaha and works to improve conditions for youth, women, and the homeless.

In recognition of her service, she received the University of Nebraska Omaha Chancellor's Award in 2005 and the YWCA Women of Distinction award in 2009.

Sara now oversees the operation of the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center. She was involved in the creation and development of this institute, which works to combine great ideas and organizations with the boundless energy of the University of Nebraska Omaha campus.

Mrs. Woods has helped cultivate the same passion for service in others and fostered stronger bonds within our community and beyond. We would do well to adopt her inspiring passion for public service.

HONORING VAIL TOWN MANAGER STAN ZEMLER

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body to recognize Mr. Stan Zemler of Vail, Colorado, who is leaving local government service after a career of over 30 years in our great State of Colorado.

Mr. Zemler served as the town of Vail's manager for the past 13 years. Before that, as the city of Boulder's acting and deputy city manager, as the Boulder Urban Renewal Authority's executive director, and as the CEO of the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, where I met Stan almost 20 years ago. What a terrific career with positive impacts on both Boulder County and Eagle County, two very important counties in my district.

Stan's leadership is about community partnering and consensus building. He really worked hard with various agencies, including Federal, State, local government, with the U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of Transportation to enhance Vail's local community, international guest services and amenities, and strengthened its economic position as a sustainable international resort.

He has been active in working with others in the I-70 Coalition and Colorado Association of Ski Towns. He has won numerous awards for his service. He will be missed in Eagle County for his service. We remember him fondly in Boulder County.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Stan Zemler on behalf of the residents of the Second Congressional District and myself personally. His distinguished service to the town of Vail and municipal government is an important legacy for many years to come.

HEALTH INSURANCE IN NAME ONLY

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a few of my constituents who are struggling under the weight of ObamaCare. Like many Americans who are self-employed, Kim and Randall are two Kansans who obtain health insurance under the Affordable Care Act's marketplace.

Kim's premiums have more than doubled from \$188 to \$392 per month; but, worse, her deductible has actually gone from about \$700 to \$6,500. Randall's premiums are even worse, coming in at around \$700 per month, with a deductible of \$6,800.

I reference these two examples because they highlight one of the primary problems of the Affordable Care Act: coverage with deductibles approaching \$7,000 really isn't coverage at all. It is health insurance in name only.

This week House Republicans have rolled out the initial draft of our plan to repeal and replace the ACA. We are doing it thoughtfully and carefully through the open committee process as we speak. The bill and summaries are available online at readthebill.gop.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is collapsing. Let's work together as Democrats and Republicans to repair our broken healthcare system and truly give the American people access to affordable care.

TRUMPCARE IS A DISASTER

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose TrumpCare. This legislation is a "bigly" disaster. TrumpCare will cause Americans to pay more for less health insurance coverage. It doesn't just affect the 20 million people who are now at threat of losing their health insurance. It affects all 156 million Americans under employer-based health coverage whose premiums will now increase because of the chaos that TrumpCare is causing in the health insurance markets.

I agree with Republican Senator TOM COTTON about once every 3 years. This is one of those times. We both agree that TrumpCare is a disaster and that the House Republicans need to start over.

□ 1230

CARING FOR OUR VETS

(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud and so excited and so honored

to be able to serve in the United States House of Representatives and to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I did not serve in the military, but now I have the amazing blessing of serving those who did serve to protect our freedom to keep us safe.

I am filing my first piece of legislation today, and it is the Veterans, Employees and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2017. In my first hearing as chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, I heard with great concern, and even outrage, that some employees at the VA spend 100 percent of their time on union activity. Even physicians and nurses and folks who are hired to provide health care to our veterans, 100 percent of their time on union activity.

The law says their activity and time on union activities should be reasonable and in the best interest of the public. I don't believe in west Texas, or any area around the country, that it is reasonable and in the best interest of the public to spend 100 percent of your time on union activity and not fulfilling the mission. And, in this case, it is protecting and serving and caring for our vets.

#RESISTREPEAL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, 24 Members, Democrats, have been sitting with our Republican friends in Energy and Commerce for more than 24 hours, hunkered down on a bill that no one has seen, no one has read, or no one knows what it is about. Contrast that to the Affordable Care Act with over 79 hearings, over a 2-year period, hundreds and hundreds of hours of hearings, 181 witnesses from both sides of the aisle, ongoing interaction with the American people. And what did we get? Over 20 million people, lower costs in Medicare, Medicaid, and employer coverage.

What are we getting now in this document that is called a healthcare bill? Loss of coverage with 15 million Americans kicked off of health insurance, 73 million Americans may lose their health insurance, undermining employer-sponsored coverage that more than 177 million individuals would be jeopardized, no CBO assessment of what it is going to cost, how many jobs will be lost, and you will be paying more for your insurance and getting less. And the loved ones that you have in nursing homes that are dependent upon Medicaid, even though they worked, may be kicked out as we speak.

Go forward on the D.C. 24 #ResistRepeal.

CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES COMPEL US TO FIX HEALTH CARE

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind us of the need to repeal ObamaCare. We have an opportunity to address the Affordable Care Act. It is real simple: by gutting it.

In northeast Georgia, I have heard again and again how my neighbors have suffered at the hands of ObamaCare. ObamaCare levied \$1 trillion in new taxes, not including the de facto taxes that came to middle class Americans in the form of increased deductible and insurance premiums.

The laws that our friends across the aisle forced on the American people while they worked in the shadows have crippled our healthcare system. The Affordable Care Act is not affordable, and it is not acceptable. Not from my neighbors and not for your loved ones, Mr. Speaker.

Democrats created a brave new world in which coverage came with no promise of quality health care, in which insurance markets continue to crumble and families watch their healthcare resources slip away.

The only way forward is to say good-bye to ObamaCare, good-bye to personal and employer mandates. Good-bye to additional and frivolous taxes. Good-bye to unnecessary spending. Good-bye to heartbreaking healthcare outcomes. Good-bye, and good riddance.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 720, LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2017, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 985, FAIRNESS IN CLASS ACTION LITIGATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 180 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 180

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 720) to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in